The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and official interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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It's Not Too Early! REGISTER NOW VOTE IN 1950

WHOLE NO. 2007 WILLIAM GREEN, *President* WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1949 GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer* VOL. 39, NO. 39

UN to Study World's Economic Problems; AFL Representatives Sharing in Work

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent for AFL News Service

New York.—The fourth regular session of the United Nations General Assembly which opened here last week is expected to deal with measures of vital importance to the maintenance of world-wide economic health and to the resistance against Soviet totalitarianism.

In attendance at the UN sessions are AFL representatives Toni Sender and George Hoble, working under the direction of Second Vice President Matthew Woll.

Spurred on by a report from the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) entitled "Maintenance of Full Employment," the General Assembly will be asked to begin work in the implementation of Articles 55 and 56 of the UN charter which calls for the promotion of higher living standards, solutions to international economic and related problems and pledges UN member nations to seek to achieve these purposes.

The report to ECOSOC is based on a questionnaire distributed to member nations on what they plan to do to maintain full employment and economic stability. According to an analysis by Miss Sender, several governments have prepared a series of constructive measures to be taken as soon as the first signs of a downward trend in the economy show up.

A general review of the answers to the UN questionnaire discloses:

Denmark has drafted a national budget presented as estimates of figures of expected economic developments and plans and has described a program of deficit financing during a period of declining employment and keeping on reserve approved emergency projects to become operative on short notice.

England has a "Distribution of Industry Act" which has resulted in the construction of a large number of factories in the development areas.

She has an "Investment Control Act" directing new capital issues and bank credits to industries given preference in the investment program.

Australia has a loan council which determines how much is to be raised by loans, allocations and terms of these loans. It also has a "Commonwealth Employment Service" to cope with seasonal employment fluctuations and the movement of labor from one industry to another. It has a huge reserve of public works which can be started immediately. An interesting fact about Australia is that its public housing authorities operate under a rule which says low-income families must not pay more than one-fifth of income as rent.

The Netherlands government now has a recommendation before it for the establishment of a cycle equalization fund and the setting aside by private firms of funds, tax free, in a special blocked account with the nation's central bank. These funds are to be used only during a depression.

Sweden's "State Employment Board" supervises a scheduling and planning designed to combat unemployment. It has an investment council, comprising government, commercial and industrial representatives to bring about well-balanced investment planning.

The AFL spokesman stated:

"An increasing number of states have started the development of plans to meet the challenge of economic instability. The special thing, however, is that all these measures be kept in readiness, and not to require special preparation when the need arises.

"Democratic systems of government are the only ones in which people are able to act quickly and effectively," the United States, the provision for planning is covered rather inconspicuously in the Full Employment Act of 1946. All that law actually requires is the submission by the President to the Congress of economic studies and measures. There are two special agencies set up to assist the President to implement the act—a Council of Economic Advisers responsible to the President and a congressional committee on the economic report.

Unfortunately in the United States there are people in high places who apparently don't so bad. Eloquent evidence of this school of thinking is to be found in the August issue of the leading New England newspaper, the Boston Herald, which carried an editorial, "The Cult of Full Employment, Part II."

"... What is pertinent is the flexibility of our economy and the consideration for short periods of some unemployment. It is somewhat different than the kind of executive psychology which says a business leader get panicky and want to call in government every time employment a million or so."

Perhaps, the UN report on what other democratic nations, far poorer than we, are doing to maintain full employment and economic declines, may have some effect on our own program.

Job Situation Brighter In 36 Critical Areas

Washington.—Improvement in the employment situation and a slackening of unemployment occurred in September in the major production centers and relatively smaller labor market areas which in recent months have been experiencing heavy unemployment, the Labor Department's Bureau of Employment Security reported.

Robert C. Goodwin, director of the bureau, reported to Secretary of Labor Tobin that during the past 30 days unemployment dropped in two-thirds of the 36 critical areas and over half of the areas reported employment increases. Total unemployment in the 36 areas decreased about 2 percent.

"At the request of the White House, the Labor Department's Bureau of Employment Security arranged with the state employment security agencies in early August to obtain regular monthly labor market reports covering employment trends and unemployment in all areas where 3.0 percent or more of the labor force was unemployed," Goodwin said in a statement.

"As a result of this survey, the state agencies submitted labor market reports on August 15 on 36 areas which had very substantial labor surpluses. The information contained in these reports was analyzed by the White House in order that federal activities could be coordinated to alleviate the unemployment situation in these localities.

"The second series of labor market reports on the 'E' areas was received this week. These show that while construction has increased in nearly half the areas and unemployment declined in two-thirds of the areas, the improvement shown by the various areas has suffered—except in one instance, to affect its 'E' classification. Only one area, Centralia, Illinois, was removed from the list of 'E' areas. The number of areas now classified as 'E' is 35. The reports disclosed, however, that in a number of areas, areas moved closer to the 'E' classification which includes areas with substantial labor surpluses.

Goodwin said the reports indicated the improved economic conditions which have been in evidence since last August.

"July marked to have been the peak month of unemployment in most 'E' areas and for the country as a whole," Goodwin said. "The reports show substantial increase in some manufacturing industries, particularly textiles, fabricated metals and machinery. This has resulted in the rehiring of persons laid off during the summer for inventory and vacations. Inventories had been very low and new orders were appearing. An increase in the number of persons at work was evidenced in the reports, except for coal mining."

Goodwin said the reports covered conditions in the areas as of Sept. 21.

Home Ownership Study Reveals Plight Of Millions of Middle-Income Families

Washington.—Less than half of the families in the country with incomes of below $4,000 annually own their own homes, according to a recent survey made by the Federal Reserve Board.

This was one of the highlights of the study which showed that some 30,000,000 nonfarm families in the United States were home owners at the beginning of 1949, an increase of almost 2,000,000 in one year.

The board said that the proportion of families owning their own homes increased gradually above the $4,000 income bracket to a peak of 70 families with income of $7,500 or more reported that they were in the home owning class.

The information contained in the survey is based on the results of about 3,500 interviews taken in a sampling points in the country.

Less than 1,000,000 families are paying rent, according to the survey, and about 2,000,000 nonfarm homes nor pay rent. Approximately 51 percent of the families owning their homes, the Reserve Board said, are one-half of these homes were valued by their owners at more than $8,000.

The Reserve Board said that the 2,000,000 families that rented paid a home nor rented one included families living in single-room units, families who have rent-free quarters connected with their work, young married couples who live with the parents of the husband or wife.

The Reserve Board also found that of every 10 houses that were owner-occupied in the United States, only 4 had been purchased since the end of the war, another 3 during the 1940-45 period, 2 during the 1930s, and 2 in the years before the depression.

Approximately half of all families owning their own homes at the time of the survey had bought them since Pearl Harbor.

Fifty-five percent of the families owning their homes reported they had mortgages debt, the survey pointed out. Of these, 70 percent said that their total debt secured by mortgages was less than $5,000.

Another 20 percent indicated that 2 of every 3 home owners reported expenditures for maintenance or improving their properties in 1948. The average amount of such expenditures was approximately $500.

Data on the nonfarm rent-paying families reported total rent payments in the year of $7,000,000,000 in 1948, or a little more than 12 percent of their cash income. This relatively high proportion, the survey pointed out, is due largely to the fact that many reported that there was no mortgage on their home.

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The mobility of the population during the past year is indicated by the survey, by the fact that 20 percent of the city dwelling families and 30 percent of the homeowning families had moved from one into their present quarters since the beginning of 1946. In other words, approximately 4 of every 10 nonfarm families in the country moved at least once in the 3-year period ending on Dec. 31, 1948.

TVA Head Lauds Labor For Cooperative Role

Kingsport, Tenn.—Good labor relations on the Tennessee Valley Authority have yielded great "dividends," Gordon Clapp, chairman of the TVA told a rally of union members here.

He pointed out the fact that the 15,000 workers employed under the banner of AFL unions and that, under a collective bargaining agreement, a remarkable record of peaceful settlement of all disputes.

Only once since 1940, he said, has it been necessary to refer a controversy to an "impartial umpire." All other disputes have been disposed of at the bargaining table.

Under the agreement, he added, unions and management cooperate in the handling of workers and in the development of more efficient methods of operation.

"Labor and management have demonstrated," he declared, "that a hard-headed but honest bargaining relationship will work when the parties trust each other's integrity and respect each other's responsibilities.

"These relationships have paid off for the TVA and for the Valley . . . The pay-off is not only in the harmony and efficiency with which can be demonstrated, but also in the demonstration that democracy can be as high in a public enterprise as in private enterprise—if not higher."

Attempts to Prevent Union Picketing Laid to California Civil Authorities

Washington.—Local and county authorities in California's Central Valley are attempting to stop picketing of fields by cotton pickers, Secretary H. L. Mitchell, president of the AFL's National Farm Labor Union announced.

Mitchell said that Kings County officials had prevented the entry of a cotton pickers' organizer, Al Greenwald. Calif. Tulare County authorities hurriedly amended an ordinance, by-law, prohibiting the use of loud speakers, and jailed William G. Trafton, National Farm Labor Union organizer, for violating the ordinance. Trafton was released on bail posted by the Visalia Central Labor Union after an overnight stay in the county jail.

The AFL Farm Labor Union leader said he had advised representatives of the union to fill every jail in California if it is necessary to protect the right of striking cotton pickers to hold meetings, picket the fields and use public address systems.

Meanwhile, the strike of cotton pickers which began September 12, as a protest against a wage reduction averaging over a dollar per day for each worker is gaining momentum. More than 30,000 cotton field workers have joined the strike. Production has been shut down nearly 100 percent in the valley.

Big farm operators have mobilized their propaganda machine in California and are touring working class districts of various towns and cities, hoping to impress the striking cotton pickers with the idea that unless they accept the wage cuts the farmers will be financially unable to pick the 1949 crop. Union organizers are countering this propaganda with the statement that there are less than 1,500 farm operators who control the entire cotton belt and if they were all thrown into California, they could not harvest the million-bale crop now opening rapidly.

Mitchell also charged that the Associated Farmers of California, Inc., is responsible for the present strike. The farm group backed a meeting of cotton growers held in Fresno at which it was agreed to cut wages from three-quarters to 60 per 100 pounds to $2.50 per 100. The average cotton picker can pick between 100 and 150 pounds per day and the wage cut therefore averages $1 or more for a day's work.

Illinois Federation Eyes '50 Election; Soderstrom Urges Defeat of Labor Foes

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent for AFL News Service

Springfield, Ill.—Reelection in 1950 of 13 Illinois Congressmen who have proved themselves friendly to organized labor was called for by Reuben Soderstrom, president of the Illinois State Federation of Labor, as delegates opened the federation's 67th annual convention.

Twelve of the 13 are Democrats. The other is a Republican, C. W. Vursell, the only Illinois Republican in Congress who opposed the Taft-Hartley law. The Illinois delegates also voted for its repeal, are Representatives Buckley, Chesney, Dawson, Gordon, Gorski, Lindsay, Mack, O'Brien, O'Hara, Price, Sabath and Yates.

"The 1950 election will also give us an opportunity to defeat some of the so-called labor baiters," said Soderstrom. "We have an opportunity to defeat Congressmen Chiperfield, Church, McMillen, Mason, Simpson, Velde and Vursell, and perhaps some others. We got off to a good start in the August 1st November election and we now have an opportunity to complete the job in 1950.

"We must swing on these enemies of labor again, and I make this prophecy—when the 1950 election is over we are going to have more friends than enemies in Congress, and the bill leveled at the Musicians, the Hobbs bill, leveled at the Teamsters, and the Taft-Hartley law leveled at all of us, will be finally, completely and forever repealed."

His praised the records of Illinois' AFL Congressmen. He declared that the federation helped elect in 1948, 70 per cent of the state senate and 70 per cent of the house.

Ralph Wright, assistant Secretary of Labor, another convention speaker, asserted the Taft-Hartley Act is "unfair, unjust, antiliberal and has no place in a democracy." He said the law was passed over President Truman's veto by taking away the U. S. Conciliation and Mediation Service.

"For the sake of industrial peace, this situation should and will be changed," said Wright. "The conciliation service should be put back where it belongs with the other labor agencies of the Department of Labor."

Almost 1,500 delegates are attending the convention, representing 850,000 Illinois AFL members.

Important Problems For Labor Facing AFL's 68th Convention

AFL Metal Trades Hold 40th Convention; Frey Says Communism Greatest Menace

St. Paul.—Communism was singled out as the "greatest menace to world peace" and "the outstanding obstacle" to economic progress in the free world by John P. Frey, president of the AFL's Metal Trades Department.

Mr. Frey's charge was included in his report to the department's 40th convention in session here, which presented a careful analysis of important Democratic and international economic affairs of vital interest to the labor movement.

Reviewing the AFL's successful fight against Communist influence in its own ranks and on the international scene, Mr. Frey declared in his report, said:

"The determined position of the American Federation of Labor has really incurred the wrath of the organized Russian trade union movement and the Soviet-dominated movements of the world. It must continue its efforts, for the Moscow dictatorship is still a grave menace.

"All of the efforts of men to establish free institutions, and the reward earned by the efforts, are now overshadowed by the world-wide cleavage between two conflicting economic points of view.

"The nations of self-governing men are not endeavoring to force their forms of government upon the Russian people. If the Russians like the form of government which they impress them, that is their affair; but the Kremlin has no right to claim the position that it cannot be successful unless it forces its system upon others or to exist in other countries. Its defiant and announced purpose is to destroy the free institutions with every means on which it can lay its hands.

"The American trade union movement, the American Federation of Labor, was the first organized body in the United States to direct attention to the menace presented by communistic philosophy and Communist purposes. It led the fight, and for its own, welfare it must continue to do so. There can be no safety through the adoption of half-way measures."

On the domestic front, Mr. Frey declared that "there is ample evidence that the national economy is sound, and that so far as internal conditions are concerned, there is no danger of a serious depression."

He warned, however, that efforts must be made to increase the real wages of workers as a means of insuring national prosperity.

The AFL labor official stressed the interdependence of our national economy and the economies of other nations. He said:

"Unfortunately, the internal economy of our country is greatly influenced by the economic conditions of other nations, particularly those in the Western Hemisphere. Whether or not we like it, the fact remains that the immediate future of the welfare of the United States will be materially affected by the degree to which the nations of western Europe are able to re-construct and to place their own national economic structure on a firm foundation.

"The economic welfare of other countries is important to that of our own, that we have been spending billions of dollars to assist in them, and there are reasons for believing that we must continue to do this for some time."

Over 600 Delegates to Weigh Issues at St. Paul

Washington.—National and international problems of supreme importance to labor will be considered at the 68th annual convention of the American Federation of Labor which opens Oct. 3 in St. Paul, Minn. More than 600 delegates, representing the 107 national and international unions affiliated with the AFL are expected to attend.

Secretary of Defense Louis A. Johnson will give the convention a report on the latest developments affecting national defense and world peace. Other distinguished speakers scheduled to address the delegates include Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin; ECA Director Paul Hoffman; Leroy Fleming, chairman of the U. S. Maritime Commission; Oscar R. Ewing, Federal Security Administrator; David A. Morse, director of the International Labor Organization; George N. Craig, national commander of the American Legion; and Senators Hubert Humphrey, of Minnesota; and the senator Murray, of Montana; George W. Malone, of Nevada; and Joseph Chapman, of Arkansas; and Joseph Heath, deputy director of labor and management division of the ECA Mission to Greece.

AFL President William Green will open the convention on Oct. 3 with a keynote address. The afternoon session will be devoted to the reading of the Executive Council's report to the convention and the introduction of resolutions to the various convention committees.

On October 4 Secretary of Labor Tobin's report will be delivered, are listed as the chief speakers. On the following day, Oscar R. Morse, Paul Hoffman and Oscar R. Ewing will be on the program.

The AFL's plans for the 1950 congressional campaign will be shaped at a special meeting of the Labor League for Political Education. It is expected that the meeting will be held soon on Oct. 6 in order to hold the national meeting of the league.

So far the only speaker, outside of labor's own ranks, scheduled for Oct. 7 is the national commander of the American Legion, George N. Craig, Secretary of Defense Johnson and General Fleming are due to talk on Oct. 10.

Aside from the invited speakers, members of the AFL's staff who have been stationed in Europe, Asia and the Western Hemisphere will make reports to the convention, as will the international labor delegates to the British Trades Union Congress and the Inter-American Confederation of Trades and Labor Congress.

Starting on the first day of the convention's first week, the committees will begin considering their reports on the resolutions and the various sections of the Executive Council's report, which will be debated and voted upon by the delegates. The convention will close with the election of officers, probably, on Friday, Oct. 13.

Label Department Urges Big 'Buy-Union' Drive

St. Paul.—Affiliated unions and the general membership of the American Federation of Labor were urged to get behind a stepped-up drive to promote the sale of union-made goods and services, by the executive Board of the AFL's Union Label Trades Department.

The call for action was contained in the report to the 41st convention of the department in session here which reported progress in it's efforts to make the American public realize that union products are "the best buy anywhere in the world."

The report reviewed the various successes scored by the annual Union Industries Show staged by the department for the purpose of informing the public of the gains in living standards which union organization has produced high-quality goods and services.

During a continued effort to promote the sale of Union Label articles, the department officers declared:

"If we are to sell our product, we must urge every consumer to buy Union Label articles because it is the best way for him to raise his own standard of living. He will find in the only package he buys—not merely on the contents in his pay envelope. If self-preservation is the first law of nature, then buy union is the first law of economics for the man with standpoint. Union Label buying is the best way to obtain the full union benefits for all citizens.

"But there is a greater cause than the selfish one. It is buying unionmade goods that will help to maintain the highest standard of living for the unionized, there is no child labor, no sweatshop conditions and no unfair conditions for children of these workers. The health of these workers and or use unfair products may be greatly impaired. To buy union-made products therefore is the greatest contribution to safe conditions in processing and healthful products.

"The great reforms which the American Federation of Labor advocates can be more easily accomplished by greater organization and union label buying. Collective bargaining has been responsible for the wage gains we have got discovered to raise wages, shorten hours and better the conditions of all toilers. In just the degree that a union worker buys and other union products, by asking for the union label banner can we obtain a full measure of 'life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness!'

"Remember that the label that displays the union label and buttons is the best method of preserving our American system of free enterprise which has brought the highest standard of living of citizens to the greatest number of people in any nation on the face of the globe. The union label is truly the symbol of freedom in action."

Green Pledges AFL Support in Drive To Employ Physically Handicapped

Washington.—AFL President William Green pledged that AFL unions would cooperate in efforts to stimulate the gainful employment of the physically handicapped here on Oct. 7.

Mr. Green's views were expressed in a statement prepared for the President's Conference on National Employ the Physically Handicapped here on the observed October 2-8. His remarks were included in a pamphlet issued by the committee which includes similar statements from other labor leaders, officials and private citizens.

In a foreword, Vice Admiral Rose P. McIntire, chairman, said in making the collection available that "it is our sincere hope that through these words of wisdom the public will see and the act will call upon our fellow Americans to work for the greater equality of employment opportunity for the handicapped."

Mr. Green declared that the handicapped should be "encouraged to serve in the capacities they presents itself." He said that labor and management have handicapped workers helping in private work opportunities for handicapped individuals. It is the purpose and policy of the American Federation of Labor to assist in such a way as possible in the promotion and achievement of these worthy objectives.

Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin said that the department "is keeping in the dignity of the individual in the consequent right of that individual to employment opportunities in keeping with abilities and training." He pledged the personal interest of the department to the cause of justice for the handicapped, whether their incapacity be of warfare origin or their disabilities due to peacetime accidents or illnesses."

SENATE UNIT OK's FUNDS FOR SHIP REPAIR PROJECT

The Senate Appropriation Committee recommended that Congress provide $25,000,000 to repair 134 ships in the government's "mothball" fleet.

The ship-repair program was recommended by Gen. Omar Bradley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who said it would be "highly desirable from a military point of view" to recondition all 459 ships in the Maritime Commission's reserve fleet.

The committee recommended that Congress start with money to repair 134 vessels, including transports, attack transports and cargo attack ships.

The repairs would average slightly less than $20,000 per ship. Those picked for repair include 64 on the Atlantic Coast, 33 on the Pacific Coast and 17 on the Gulf Coast.

AUTO EXPORTS DECLINING; OUTPUT AT HIGH IN AUG.

Detroit. — Emphasizing the continued decline in motor vehicle exports, the Automobile Manufacturers Association reported that 96.6 percent of August output was absorbed by the domestic market.

The United States car industry built 657,664 vehicles in August, a new record high, the association reported, but foreign markets took only 29,625. In the same month last year output totaled 461,353 vehicles and exports numbered 35,202.

For the first 8 months of 1949 the industry produced 4,230,907 vehicles and shipped 208,215 abroad. In the same period of last year United States output totaled 3,424,282 vehicles, of which 295,447 were exported.

OVER 10,000,000 VETERANS FILE DIVIDEND CLAIMS

Washington.—More than 10,000,000 World War II veterans have applied for the special life insurance dividend to be paid next year the Veterans Administration announced.

The applications, available at all post offices and veterans' centers, still are coming in at the rate of about 200,000 a day. Large numbers are being mailed in without signatures, it said. The agency added that indications are that about 10 percent of the applications are improperly filled out. Many of these can be corrected by checking with the files, however.

About 16,000,000 veterans will share in the $2,800,000,000 payment, scheduled to start in January.

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WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, *President* — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1949 — GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer*

It's Not Too Early! REGISTER NOW VOTE IN 1950

For Release Oct. 3:

AFL Council Says Trend of Business Depends on Lifting of Buying Power

St. Paul.—The AFL Executive Council declared that the future trend of economic activity "will depend primarily on steady increases in wages without turning prices upward again."

The lifting of consumer buying power is essential to sustain maximum production and employment, the council said in its report to the 68th AFL convention.

Reviewing economic developments during the past year, the report asserted that the recent business decline "has been a corrective process, not an industrial depression. The report said in part:

"During 1949, the American economy has been going through a period of readjustment accompanied by declines in prices, production and employment. This has been a difficult period for all concerned.

"For more than 4 million workers it has meant unemployment, and several hundred thousand more have been out of work longer than the unemployment benefit period so that their benefits have been exhausted. Many of those employed have had their incomes cut by part-time work.

"For business, the recession has meant a 14 percent reduction in total profits (after taxes) for the second quarter of 1949 compared to the first 1948 levels, and an 80 percent increase in business failures. In addition, there reduced sales income, returning competition have brought difficulties to employers and made them resist granting wage increases.

"The recession however has been a corrective process, not an industrial depression. Various economic maladjustments had arisen during the long postwar business boom.

"During the recession, important progress has been made in correcting these maladjustments. The down-turn in prices, which started with the collapse of prices in mid-1948, as the world food shortage was overcome, extended to industrial products late last year. Since then a general downward price adjustment has been under way throughout the economy.

"Besides the decline, other important economic adjustments have taken place since midsummer of 1948. With the return of competition and the decline in prices and sales income, management is showing new interest in cutting costs and increasing productivity. Since the first half of 1948, productivity has been raised again at the rate of 2.3 percent a year, a figure which is close to normal.

"The recession has also brought drastic cuts in inventories, so that over a large part of industry inventories are in much better balance. This will permit new cut goods to flow through quickly to the market.

"Since the end of the general consumer price rise (August, 1948), total production has been fairly well held up by price rises and workers' 'real' wage or buying power has been rising gradually, and reached $1.35 per hour in July 1949. Wage increases won by affiliated unions in 1949 have so far (in most part begun between 4 cents and 15 cents per hour, but even these increases have been smaller than in previous postwar years, they have brought more benefit to our members because they have been real gains and increases in buying power.

"The federation recognizes that the corrective process now going on is essential to restore economic health. It is not a time for general economic activity will of itself return to normal relationships kept sound by competition."

For Release Oct. 3:

Union Benefit Payments Up 2½ Times In Decade

St. Paul.—Organized labor's active interest in welfare programs for workers was highlighted by the AFL Executive Council's report which revealed that AFL affiliates paid out a record $68,469,561 worth of benefits to their members during 1948.

Benefits paid included sickness, unemployment, old age, disability, and for other miscellaneous purposes, and other specific provisions of the benefit plans adopted by the various unions.

The total payments for 1948 reflected the rapid growth of benefit plans over the years. The figure, which would have been larger had all unions submitted complete data for establishment of benefit plans disbursed in 1947, and roughly $16,000,000 greater than the payments made in 1946.

Over a decade benefits paid by AFL unions have increased more than two and one-half times. In 1938 the total payments were only $23,586,288 in various welfare payments.

The council report for the year 1948 showed that miscellaneous benefits, death benefits and old age payments ranked in that order in terms of the total dollar value paid to members as benefits. Unemployment benefits' represented the smallest share of the total disbursed.

The International Ladies Garment Workers Union and the International Typographical Union ran neck and neck in amounts of funds paid to their members for various benefits. Both unions topped the $1,600,000-mark. Printers reported the highest payment record with $1,650,000 hood of Railroad Trainmen which distributed a total of $9,169,918. Nine unions reported that they had spent more than $1,000,000 during 1948 for various welfare services.

Twenty-eight of the reporting unions declared that they had paid no international benefits during the year.

For Release Oct. 3:

Council Hails AFL's Relentless Fight For New Free World Labor Federation

St. Paul.—The Executive Council hailed the recent march of events which has led to the eclipse of the Soviet-dominated World Federation of Trade Unions and the establishment of a firm foundation for a new organization of free trade unions throughout the world.

In reviewing the past year's activity in the international labor field, the council said in its report to the AFL convention:

"The relentless fight waged by the American Federation of Labor against the creation, organization and continuation of the WFTU was not a mere negative struggle.

"There can be nothing more positive and constructive than the defeat and eradication of destructive and totalitarian elements in the body-politic of organized labor, the elimination of the dangerous virus calling itself Communism, Nazism, Fascism, Peronismo, Peronism, or any other specie of totalitarianism or dictatorship, statutory slavery in fact—and the counteracting and overcoming of the ravages especially at the expense of organized labor by the forces of the absolute prerequisite for the very survival, let alone the continued progress and progress, of free trade unionism and all human decency and liberty.

"The American Federation of Labor is highly gratified that its drive against the Kremlin's monstrous military espionage agency, the WFTU, has borne fruit and that the free trade union organizations are now ready for a fundamental and sound realignment leading to the organization of a genuine world organization of the bona fide trade unions."

The groundwork for the new world labor unit was completed at a preliminary conference held last June in Switzerland and attended by representatives of 34 national trade union centers, 12 unaffiliated trade union bodies, and the International Trade Secretariats. The latter organization represented a combined membership of more than 47,000,000 workers throughout the free world.

The conference named a committee to draft a proposed constitution which will be submitted to the first official conference for the new world labor movement scheduled for November 28th in London.

Discussing the preliminary conference, the council's report summarized 4 basic principles for the new world group as set forth by George Meany, AFL secretary-treasurer, and leader of the AFL delegation attending the Geneva meetings. They are:

"1. The existing vacuum in the field of world labor must be filled by the combined unity of free labor. The threat of totalitarianism must be met and overcome by unification of the non-Communist trade unionists.

"2. The new international trade union body must be divorced completely from governmental control. The rights and privileges of both large and small national centers must be fully recognized.

"3. The International Trade Secretariats must be drawn into the preparations and subsequent work of this new world labor organ from the very beginning, thus maintaining and guaranteeing their independent autonomy as the second solution between the two international bodies.

"4. There must be created a truly world-wide organization not confined merely to Europe and/or America but embracing Asian, South American and African areas of the world."

2 NATIONAL UNIONS GIVEN AFL CHARTERS

St. Paul.—The AFL Executive Council reported that 2 new international unions were chartered during the year to bring the total of affiliated national and international unions to 107.

The council granted a charter to the Flight Engineers International Association on December 7, 1948, upon the receipt of an application from representatives of various forward labor unions in the air industry.

The second charter, issued on July 7, 1949, went to the Railway Patrolmen's International Union composed of 53 directly affiliated unions which had formed a national council.

Council Hails States' Action On Labor Laws

St. Paul.—The Executive Council hailed the progressive trend of various states to repeal obnoxious labor legislation and to enact satisfactory labor laws, but warned that the situation leaves no room "for complacency or reduced effort."

Summing up the results of state legislative action in the labor field, the council's report declared:

"The federations of labor are to be congratulated on the results under hard work and other types of union security agreements.

"Maine voters in September rejected a 1947 anti-closed shop law and defeated a proposed amendment to obtain more restrictive provisions.

"In November, voters in New Mexico defeated a proposed amendment to the state constitution which would have prohibited denying employment to any person because of membership in, resignation or expulsion from a labor organization, or refusal to join a union.

"Massachusetts, at the November elections, also defeated a measure to ban the closed shop. In the same election, this state also turned down a measure to require labor union officials to take an oath of office every at least once a year, and a proposed law which would have prohibited strikes unless approved by a majority of the state's membership.

"'Little Taft-Hartley Acts' in Missouri and Delaware were repealed. The New Hampshire act regulating picketing was amended and also repealed.

"In addition, Michigan amended its law substituting voluntary arbitration of labor disputes for compulsory arbitration in public utilities. This provision for voluntary arbitration applies to all types of labor disputes. Other amendments clarify and improve the conditions under which a strike vote is conducted.

"A bill to repeal the 1947 Missouri act that regulates labor disputes in public utilities is still pending. Labor-Management relations, now in recess, expects to reconvene in 1950.

"The record is a good start on the road toward trade union objectives to secure the repeal of anti-labor laws enacted during the hysteria of the twenty-three-quarters of the states. The record merely shows that the job can be done but that it is not easy."

IATSE LOCAL WINS PACT PROVIDING BIG WAGE RISE

New York.—The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes announced the signing of 3-year contracts, retroactive to Aug. 1, 1949, for 1,000 Philadelphia motion picture workers who last spring rejected a bid to jump to District 50, United Workers of America. That decision had been generally interpreted as a choice of peaceful collective bargaining in preference to the dangers of joining the city's chief entertainment center.

Under the new agreements, cashiers, doormen, ushers and porters receive from 10 cents an hour increased back pay for the entire period to the 6th of last month, with the boosts rising to 12½ cents during the 2nd year and 17½ during the third. The scales for usherettes, many of whom are single working part time, have been stepped up on the same periods—from 5 cents starting at 7½ cents and then going up to 10 cents and 12½ cents.

The contracts provide a week's vacation with pay for all employed over a year who work 18 or more hours per week. All employed over 5 years get 2 weeks' paid vacation.

NLRB RULES EMPLOYER VIOLATED TAFT-HARTLEY

Washington.—The National Labor Relations Board ruled 2 to 1 that an employer violated the Taft-Hartley law when he asked three employes to testify in his speech opposing an independent union against the AFL's Teamsters Union.

John M. Houston and James J. Reynolds, Jr., ordered Trans-Oil Co., Baltimore, to cease and desist from asking its workers about their membership and activities in behalf of Local 353 of the Teamsters Union.

They overruled Trial Examiner William F. Schmeckbier, who recommended dismissal of the teamsters' complaint.

AFL's 68th Convention Gets Underway; Council Sees Threats to Free System

For Release Oct. 3:

Economic Power Held a Major Basis for Labor Progress

St. Paul.—The menace of a totalitarian Communist party and the trend toward regimentation of the lives of individuals were singled out as the chief threats to the principles of the American Federation of Labor in the 68th annual report to the 68th AFL convention meeting here.

The council called for a resurgence in the faith and devotion to the cause of labor that characterized the work of the pioneers in the labor movement" as the best defense against these twin evils.

Urging greater self-reliance and initiative, the report declared that the basis for all labor progress must rest on organized, disciplined economic power." The council said:

"Sometimes in our eagerness for benefits we forget that real improvements can only grow out of our own initiative and resourcefulness in using our economic power. The larger the union membership and treasury as well as in the nation that remains self-directing and independent, the more dynamic and constructive we can be.

"During the past two years a controversy as to the 'escalator' clause has been enacted which was intended to protect the workers against economic organization and collective bargaining. The time is ripe for a study to consider the effects of this legislation upon labor-management relations, responsibilities and functions, as a basis for its continuance.

"We should evaluate our experience to distinguish between the basic problems which lend themselves to legislative action and those problems for which economic action is best.

"We should review our various objectives to determine whether they are outdated or unwise. Our guide in this study should be the effect of the method or objective and its adaptability to the American character and progress.

In the introduction to its detailed report on legislative and economic affairs at home and abroad, the council summed up the situation as follows:

"Nationally as well as internationally the past year has been one of important struggles for standards without immediate gains. At home, labor's major struggle has been to repeal the Taft-Hartley law with its un-American discrimination against organized labor and its citizens and its restrictions upon their right of free action in the exercise of economic welfare.

"Although the party whose platform committed it to repeal of the Taft-Hartley law, the Democratic election, members of that party joined with the Republican party in defeating the Democratic party's pledge to make such law its outstanding issue.

"Our economy is only now adjusting to those economic factors which confronted us at the close of hostilities with competition developing in buyers' markets for products and a close to buy over-priced commodities. The process of adjustment has been facilitated by the international field the ideological conflict continues unabated. Terrorism and totalitarian aggression has been added war on religion and primarily at the Roman Catholic church, which has directed a world-wide attack on the materialistic and godless principles of Communism. The Kremlin has developed new techniques for its inquisition to which priests and other dissenters are submitted to the process of soul destruction.

"The democracies of the world have been thrown into confusion by Europe primarily as a result of economic reconstruction and because Communist despotism can no longer conceal its ultimate purpose. On the other hand, Communism has made extraordinary gains in Asia, with Northern China under its control and the road to Tibet open. Asia is in great ferment while Communist agitators are busy exploiting unrest among the natural resources of Malaya, Indonesia, French Indo-China and Thailand."

AFL STEREOTYPERS' LOCAL WINS NEW WAGE GAIN

Cincinnati.—The 6-day-old stereotypers' strike against the 3 daily Cincinnati newspapers ended in a compromise wage settlement.

U. S. Conciliator George S. Bell said members of Local 5, Stereotypers Union, would receive a $2 weekly wage increase for day and night work, raising wages to $92 for day work, and $96 for night work.

Meany Urges 3-Point Action Program To Counteract Drive of Labor's Foes

St. Paul.—AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany called upon organized labor to adopt a three-point program to safeguard its freedom, its standards and the very existence from the concentrated onslaughts of the enemies of labor.

In a stirring address before the annual convention here of the AFL Building and Construction Trades Department, Mr. Meany urged:

1. Intensified effort by labor in the political field with victory in the 1950 congressional elections as the immediate objective, but with permanent political service for labor as an essential long-range goal.

2. Broadened educational and publicity programs by labor to counteract the vicious anti-labor propaganda campaign, nationwide in extent, which big business is carrying on against labor and against everything for which labor stands.

3. Organization of all unorganized workers into labor's ranks, so that we will be able to prevail over any employer opposition.

Highlighting the department's convention was Mr. Meany's plain-spoken and blunt appeal for complete cooperation in the fight to repeal the political action. I urge your complete cooperation with Labor's League for Political Education both nationally and locally."

Lashing out against newspaper, radio and magazine campaigns against labor, Mr. Meany charged that the current attack against "statism" and the "welfare state" are thinly disguised and indirect attempts to break down progressive programs operating in behalf of the nation's workers.

"What would they do away with?" he asked. Social security? Federal aid to education? The GI bill of rights? They don't explain. They don't dare get specific.

"They forget that our democracy is based upon our constitution which sets forth plainly that one of the basic purposes of our government is to promote the general welfare of the people."

Mr. Meany pointed out that the opponents of the "welfare state" maintain that huge amounts of federal aid extended to the nation's railroads, the airlines, the shipping industry and the farmers.

"But the minute the government steps in and spends government money to help the workers, we immediately hear protests and cries about the welfare state," Mr. Meany charged.

At the opening of the convention, Richard J. Gray, president of the department, declared that housing construction, already proceeding at a record rate, must be stepped up to an average of at least a million and a half units a year for the next 10 years if the nation's acute need for new homes is to be met adequately.

Rent controls are being undermined by the Taft-Hartley law, Gray declared, as high as 380 percent have been imposed on tenants in some states and communities where all pretexts at policing regulations have been abandoned, he reported.

Mr. Gray also criticized the Army Engineering Corps for attempting to circumvent the Davis-Bacon Act provisions for payment of prevailing wage rates in Missouri construction projects. Widespread wage-cutting has resulted, he said.

William F. Patterson, director of the Labor Department's Bureau of Apprenticeship Training, told the convention that despite wide expansion of apprenticeship training in the past few years, American industry "is replenishing its skilled forces at a rate of only 50 percent of its future needs."

Jess Larson, head of the General Services Administration, reported to the convention that the government has a backlog of 100 billion dollars worth of needed public works projects on the shelf and is just now getting to avert an economic collapse, but only a small percentage of these have as yet reached the blue-print stage.

Metal Trades Dept. Votes Vigorous T-H Repeal Drive

St. Paul.—An all-out campaign for repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act was enthusiastically voted by the delegates at the annual convention of the AFL Metal Trades Department here.

"This bunsaw has just begun to cut into the flesh of labor," said President Joseph P. Ryan. "It will dig much deeper and hurt a great deal more unless it is repealed soon."

Whole-hearted support from the Truman Administration in the repeal fight was pledged by Secretary of Labor Ralph Wright, who told the delegates:

"Chairman Truman and Secretary of Labor Tobin are resolutely determined to continue to work for Taft-Hartley repeal until that law is erased from the statute books."

Wright charged that enemies of labor have spent $100,000,000 on propaganda first to write the law and then to sell it to the people for repeal.

The convention went on record in favor of a long-range shipbuilding program to strengthen national defenses. It demanded that a fair share of such construction be awarded to yards on the Pacific Coast as well as to West Coast shipyards.

President Charles J. McGowan of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers charged that the steel trust, which dominates the Atlantic yards, is responsible for the present discrimination against Pacific yards.

Other resolutions adopted by the delegates urged improvements in working conditions in the navy yards and arsenals; opposition, by workers in the Canal Zone, enactment of legislation providing unemployment insurance for workers in the said-off federal employes, and disability benefits in the social security laws.

All incumbent officers of the department were reelected without opposition, including President Frey, Secretary-Treasurer James A. Brownlow and the members of the executive council.

SENATE GROUP INCREASES AID FOR DISABLED VETS

Washington.—The Senate Finance Committee approved a bill which would increase from $75 to $100 monthly veterans, and to widows and children of veterans.

Major changes made in the present law, according to the committee, are:

1. Give World War I veterans 100 percent disability payments for disability presumed to be connected with their military service. The present payment is 75 percent.

2. Increase payments to veterans suffering from tuberculosis.

3. Give war widows with one child increased compensation from $100 to $105 a month plus $25 for each additional child. The present payment for each child is $15.

In references to Point 2, at present the law provides 100 percent disability payments to veterans for six months after the tuberculosis is arrested. A 50 percent rating is provided for the next 4½ years, and 10 percent for the next 5 years. The bill would give 100 percent payments in such cases for 2 years, 50 percent for 4 years and 30 percent for the next 5 years.

LABOR DEPT. READY TO AID RESERVES REGAIN OLD JOBS

Washington.—The Labor Department said it will make every effort to find jobs for the 12,000 reserve officers soon to fall under the Defense Department's control.

Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin said the department's conviction that the discharged officers will have the "full cooperation" of the 17 field officers of the department's Bureau of Veterans Reemployment rights.

Brig. Gen. E. A. Evans, ROA executive director, had asked Secretary Tobin to help the reservists return to their former jobs. General Evans said many are not aware they have reemployment rights to the jobs they left to enter service.

'50 Election Campaign, Legislative Program To Be Weighed

St. Paul.—Resolved to carry on labor's fight for repeal of the Taft-Hartley law and to press for enactment of a broad, progressive legislative program, delegates to the 68th convention of the American Federation of Labor gathered here.

As the sessions opened, representatives of the AFL's 107 national and international unions, state federations of labor, and city central bodies were determined to intensify their efforts in combatting the gigantic propaganda campaign waged against labor by private special interest groups.

More than 600 delegates, representing the some 7,200,000 members of the AFL, filled facilities to the limit, and, together with their guests, filled the spacious auditorium where the convention is being held.

AFL President William Green struck the gavel calling the first session to order following curtain-raising ceremonies by the AFL Building and Metal Trades, Building and Construction Trades, and Union Label Trades Departments.

Heading the list of important national and international problems to be considered before the group is the strategy for the coming important 1950 congressional elections. It is expected that the convention will authorize Labor's League for Political Education, the AFL's political arm, to launch a drive to defeat reactionary and reactionary Republican "Southern Democratic" candidates which has caused the logjam of labor legislation in the current session of the 81st Congress. Such plans will be outlined in detail in a special meeting of LLPE.

The delegates are expected to approve a liberal legislative program calling once again for repeal of the obnoxious Taft-Hartley law, economic safeguards to ward off depression, effective housing legislation for the nation's middle-income families, improvements in the social security system, national health insurance, a civil rights program, and continued foreign aid to bolster the economy of Europe, combat the Communist menace, and promote peace throughout the world.

While details of this program are ironed out by the proper committees in advance to the convention, the delegates will hear, during the first few days, speakers who are expected to throw the spotlight on outstanding issues and current problems.

It was announced that President Truman will send a special message to the convention.

Secretary of Defense Louis A. Johnson will give the convention a report on the latest developments affecting national defense and world peace. Other distinguished guests scheduled to address the delegates include Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin, ECA Director Paul Hoffman; General Dwight Eisenhower, U. S. Military Commission; Oscar R. Ewing, Federal Security Administrator; David A. Morse, director of the International Labor Organization; George N. Craig, national commander of the American Legion; and Senators Hubert Humphrey, of Minnesota; James E. Murray, of Montana; George W. Malone, of Nevada; and O. Mahoney, of Wyoming; and Joseph Heath, deputy director of labor and manpower division of the ECA Mission to Greece.

Aside from the invited speakers, members of the AFL's staff who have been stationed in Europe, Asia and South America during the past year to report to the convention, as will the two fraternal delegates from the British Trades Union Congress and the fraternal delegate from the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress.

It is also expected that a group of 9 Danish trade union leaders, now visiting the United States, will visit industrial methods and trade union problems, will be present. Moreover, the delegation is here under the auspices of ECA.

Starting toward the end of the convention's first week, the committees will get down to the serious reports on the resolutions and the various sections of the president's annual report, which will be debated and voted upon. The election of officers for the convention will close with the election of officers scheduled for October 12.

AFL FARM UNION ACTS TO EXTEND COTTON STRIKE

Washington.—After a strike of cotton pickers in the Mississippi Valley of California had been brought to a successful conclusion by Mr. Mitchell, president of the National Farm Labor Union, the strike of 50,000 union members in the South had agreed to stay out of the fields.

This action by members of the National Farm Labor Union on the cotton plantations of Arkansas, Mississippi and southeast Missouri, came following wage conferences held in Pine Bluff, Ark., and Memphis, Tenn., where it was agreed that all workers would be notified to stay at home until the union rate of $2.50 per 100 pounds was paid. The current rate being paid by the planters is $2.50 per 100.